

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. Please cancel claims 23-28 without prejudice or disclaimer. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the method comprising:

inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming functions made by the plurality of applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions is external to the respective calling application;

routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to the respective calling application;

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the standard programming functions comprise memory functions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
modifying program code of at least one of the applications to enable the
intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
using the availability metrics for performance management of the plurality of
applications in the distributed management framework.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring the distributed management framework to monitor a subset of the
plurality of applications.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
aggregating the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console
for performance management.
9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program
instructions for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of
applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function
calls to standard programming functions, wherein the program instructions are computer-
executable to implement:
inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch
of the application;
using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming
functions made by the plurality of applications, wherein each of the
standard programming functions is external to the respective calling
application;
routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard
programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations

of the standard programming functions is internal to the respective calling application;

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
modifying program code of at least one of the applications to enable the intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.
13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
aggregating the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.
14. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
at least one processor; and
at least one memory coupled to the at least one processor, wherein the at least one memory stores program instructions that are executable by the at least one processor to:
insert a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;
use the agents to intercept one or more function calls to one or more standard programming functions made by a plurality of

applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions is external to the respective calling application;

route the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to the respective calling application; and

use the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the function calls are intercepted in a production environment.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:
 - modify program code of at least one of the applications to enable the interception of the function calls to the standard programming functions.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:
 - aggregate the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.
19. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the system comprising:
 - means for inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

means for using the agents to intercept the function calls to the standard programming functions made by the plurality of applications, wherein each of the standard programming functions is external to the respective calling application;

means for routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions, wherein each of the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions is internal to the respective calling application;

means for using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

20.-28. (Canceled)